

ABSTRACT

This report documents the initial findings of a Phase I level archaeological survey carried out in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware by Hunter Research, Inc. for the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT). The project was undertaken in connection with the planned widening of Ebenezer Church Road/Polly Drummond Hill Road between State Route 72 (Paper Mill Road) and New Linden Road and the related construction of a storm water retention basin system. The archaeological field survey, consisting of the excavation of 251 shovel test pits, was carried out along the study corridor and in areas of the proposed storm water detention basins between July 10 and July 28, 1995.

In three locations evidence of prehistoric occupation was observed within the study corridor. In the first location, shovel tests revealed a minor scatter of lithic debitage in the plow zone on both sides of the highway between Stations 117+25 and 118+25. Many of these specimens may have been formed as a result of modern plowing rather than prehistoric activity. The only certain prehistoric artifacts found at this location were two jasper flakes. The "site" is not regarded as a National Register eligible archaeological resource, and no further investigation is recommended. Evidence of two potentially significant historical archaeological resources were identified within the project limits: the well associated with a 19th century schoolhouse (the Fairview School), and part of a 19th-century domestic site (the Rumer property). In these instances, the resources require additional evaluation with reference to the following research domains identified in the Management Plan for Delaware's Historical Archaeological Resources: Domestic Economy; Landscape; and Social Group Identity, Behavior & Interaction.